

CONNECTICUT
TRIAL LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION



CTLA . 100 Wells Street. Suite 2H. Hartford, CT 06103
Phone: (860) 522-4345 . Fax: (860) 522-1027
www.ct-tla.org

Raised Bill 536
Public Hearing: 3-20-09

TO: MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FROM: CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CTLA)
DATE: MARCH 20, 2009

**RE: OPPOSITION TO RAISED BILL 536 - AN ACT CONCERNING
LIABILITY FOR SERVICES RELATED TO IDENTIFICATION OF
MISSING AND ABDUCTED CHILDREN**

My name is Joseph R. Mirrione, the Immediate Past President of the CTLA and the following is the Association's position on Bill 536:

This bill attempts to extend the liability protection(s) of C.G.S. §52-557q related to the Connecticut Amber Alert System to certain voluntary registration and identification activities associated with missing and abducted children.

The reason this bill is opposed is:

1. The protection currently afforded under C.G.S. §52-557q, itself, is sufficient.

There is no need to expand the protections afforded under C.G.S. §52-557q. The proposed bill lacks sufficient reasoning to expand the law when the existing statute has proved to be effective and unchallenged. It is the CTLA's position that bill 536 is unneeded and unwarranted addition to the legal immunity. The laws of this state must be tailored to govern and protect its citizens to the greatest degree of efficacy. Overly broadening existing legislation will not achieve this universal goal. This proposal will only serve to confuse and possibly dilute the power of current law(s). When and if there is a need to modify laws to better achieve governing efficacy and citizen safety, then it becomes a priority. With this current proposal, this is not the case. It is the view of the CTLA that proposed bill 536 is another manifestation of efforts to extend the immunization of responsible tortfeasors. It is the rights of Connecticut citizens that are limited by immunity laws, such as bill 536. It is these citizens and the state that are unjustly left to absorb their losses at the restrictive hands of over-extended legislation. It is the CTLA's position that efforts to limit a citizen's right to pursue just and fair compensation from a wrongdoer should only be exercised in absolute necessity.

WE RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO DEFEAT RAISED BILL 536. Thank you for your consideration.